

**2002 WASHINGTON STATE  
POPULATION SURVEY****Research Brief No. 16 (Revised)<sup>1</sup>**

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**The Uninsured Population in  
Washington State***Contributor: Thea N. Mounts*

According to findings from the Washington State Population Survey<sup>2</sup> (SPS), the percent of Washington residents without health insurance increased from 7.7 percent in 2000 to 8.4 percent in 2002, a 9.1 percent increase. This change represents an additional 53,000 uninsured people in the state for a total uninsured population of approximately 506,000, or about 1 in 12, Washingtonians.

Table 1 contains the number and percent uninsured by family income as a percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The percent of persons below 100 percent of the federal poverty level who were not insured remained essentially constant between 2000 and 2002, 17.8 percent and 17.9 percent respectively. The uninsured rate for the near poor, persons between 100 – 199 percent of FPL, increased 8.9 percent. Washington residents between 200 – 299 percent FPL experienced the largest increase, 29.3 percent, followed by the over 300 percent FPL group with an increase of 12.9 percent. The increase in uninsured numbers is being seen nationally and is reported by the Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins.html>).

<b>Family Income as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level</b>	<b>2000 SPS</b>			<b>2002 SPS</b>		
	<b>Population</b>	<b>Number Uninsured</b>	<b>Percent Uninsured</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Number Uninsured</b>	<b>Percent Uninsured</b>
<b>0 – 99%</b>	816,630	145,599	17.8%	830,781	149,108	17.9%
<b>100 – 199%</b>	903,191	131,732	14.6%	909,380	144,748	15.9%
<b>200 – 299%</b>	874,910	72,076	8.2%	882,797	93,654	10.6%
<b>Over 300%</b>	3,299,391	103,399	3.1%	3,420,301	118,751	3.5%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>5,894,122</b>	<b>452,806</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>6,043,259</b>	<b>506,261</b>	<b>8.4%</b>

Employer and union-sponsored insurance coverage rates declined from 63.6 percent to 61.8 percent, paralleling national trends. Declines in coverage also occurred in individually purchased plans (5.6 percent to 4.4 percent). Medicare coverage remained steady at 12.1 percent, while coverage under Medicaid increased (11.1 percent to 13.3 percent).

Rates of insurance coverage and the change in rates of coverage since 2000 vary by age (See Table 2). The youngest residents, children 0-18 years old, saw their uninsured rate drop from 5.5 percent in 2000 to 4.5 percent in 2002, an 18.2 percent decline. Working age adults 19-64 years old experienced the largest increase, 15.0 percent, from 10.0 percent in 2000 to 11.5 percent in 2002. Four out of five uninsured persons in Washington are working age adults between 19 and 64 years of age, and approximately 73,000 of the uninsured are children.

<b>Age</b>	<b>2000 SPS</b>			<b>2002 SPS</b>		
	<b>Population</b>	<b>Number Uninsured</b>	<b>Percent Uninsured</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Number Uninsured</b>	<b>Percent Uninsured</b>
<b>0 – 18</b>	1,615,132	89,480	5.5%	1,629,381	73,325	4.5%
<b>19 – 64</b>	3,618,680	361,214	10.0%	3,740,787	429,365	11.5%
<b>65 and Older</b>	660,310	2,112	0.3%	673,091	3,571	0.5%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>5,894,122</b>	<b>452,806</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>6,043,259</b>	<b>506,261</b>	<b>8.4%</b>

<sup>1</sup> This revised briefing paper utilizes the new Medical Assistance weights described in the briefing paper titled "Accounting for Medicare and Medicaid Recipients", June 2003.

<sup>2</sup> Data cited are from the 2000 and 2002 Washington State Population Surveys. More information about the surveys is available at: [www.ofm.wa.gov/sps/index.htm](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/sps/index.htm)